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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR 20 October 2009 (Vol. XXXVIII, No. 6)

The 2009 – 2010 Faculty Senate minutes and other information are available on the Web at <http://www.eiu.edu/~FacSen> The Faculty Senate agenda is posted weekly on the Web, at McAfee Gymnasium 1102, and on the third-level bulletin board in Booth Library. Note: These minutes are not a complete verbatim transcript of the Senate meeting.

I. Call to order by Chair John Pommier at 2:00pm. (Booth Library Conference Room)

Present: J. Best, A. Brownson, J. Coit, A. Methven, M. Mulvaney, R. Murray, K. Padmaraju, J. Pommier, J. Russell, D. Van Gunten, D. Viertel, A. White, M. Worthington, S. Lambert. Excused: M. Fero, M.-L. Li.

Guests: Grant Sterling (CAA), Jeanne Snyder (CCBAS), Bob Bajek (DEN editor), Les Hyder (IBHE FAC representative), Rob Miller (EIU General Counsel, President's Council), Dan Nadler (VPSA/President's Council), Gary Reed (FPM), Steve Shrake (FPM), Jill Nielsen (VPER), Blair Lord (Provost), William Weber (VPBA), Chapin Rose (State Representative), Bill Perry (EIU President)

II. Approval of the Minutes of 13 October 2009

Senator Brownson (Methven) moved to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Announcements

a. Fall External Speaker, Dr. Laurie Richland, 8:30-11:30 November 5, 2009

IV. Communications

- a. Email of 14 October, from Les Hyder, re: MAP Resolution
- b. Email of 15 October, from Fern Kory, re: Partnership with Chinese University
- c. Email of 16 October, from Stephen Lucas, re: Registrar Advisory Group
- d. Email of 19 October, from Carol Miller, re: Textbook Rental Screenshot
- e. Email of 19 October, from Barbara Burke, re: O'Brien Field music
- d. Email of 19 October, from Provost Lord, re: Partnership with Chinese University

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

- 1. Executive Committee: no report
- 2. Nominations Committee: no report
- 3. Elections Committee: Senator Van Gunten reported that 164 faculty members voted in the fall election. The College of Arts and Humanities position on the Council on University Planning and Budget was the only position unfilled by the election. As per the bylaws, nominations will be sought and the position appointed by the Senate. CUPB meets the third Friday of the month from 3-5pm. Senator Murray (Padmaraju) moved to certify the results of the election. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Faculty—Student Relations Committee: no report
- 5. Faculty—Staff Relations Committee: no report
- 6. Faculty Forum Committee: no report
- 7. Other Reports

a. Provost's Report:

Lord stated that the search committee for the Vice President for University Advancement is moving toward being able to make arrangements to announce campus visits. It does not seem likely that the position will be filled 12/1. The search for a new Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities is dean moving forward, the committee's goal is to arrange campus visits in this semester/

Lord responded to questions from Fern Kory about potential exchange students from Zhijiang University. Lord stated that a delegation of three representatives from the university had a campus

visit at invitation of School of Technology, and they and EIU signed what he termed “be nice” agreements. He stated that EIU has about 150 international students. EIU faculty and administrators who visit foreign universities frequently sign these agreements as part of the effort to recruit international students, because lots of international recruiting is word of mouth. Zhijiang University would welcome Eastern students, but offer no courses in English. The Zhijiang University agreement did specify that their students would receive a degree after 2 years at Zhijiang and 2 years at Eastern. Any international student admitted to EIU fulfill all standard requirements, including TOEFL proficiency.

b. Budget Transparency Committee: meeting next week.

c. Bylaws Committee

d. Awards Committee: The Awards Committee nominated Les Hyder to receive this year’s Luis Clay Mendez Distinguished Service Award. Senator Viertel (Murray) moved to accept the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. New Business

President’s Council:

Chapin Rose stated that the MAP was restored, but it that restoration created a \$200 million hole in the budget. He stated some legislators voted against that section of the budget because they knew this was there. He said great thanks are due to the students for raising awareness of this problem. However, legislators and the governor knew about it for two months. As soon as the budget cutting funding for MAP grants was passed some colleagues moved to initiate a back tax collection. In 2003 \$283 million was raised in three weeks from a similar program. Rose noted that a likely consequence of the MAP is that payments to providers are going to be pushed back.

Rose stated that the true budget deficit is \$4 billion, and the \$11 billion number is a combination of debt and deficit. He stated the state has paid off about \$2 billion of a \$6-7 billion debt in the last few months. He noted that under the fed stimulus, in order to capture federal funds, the has to pay certain service providers down 30 days past due. As a result, Nursing homes got paid down to 30 days, but schools are back out to 6 months. Rose said he is confident the state will get out of this, and noted debt pay is progress.

Rose said that two years ago he sent a letter to the legislature which said that the state hasn’t had a plan for higher education since the 1980s. The result was House Joint Resolution 69, which created the Public Agenda, and hearings for the Agenda were held throughout the state and at EIU. The vision was for state universities to pen us in, to produce a report to take to our colleagues. I don’t know how much buy in we got. The difference this time was, the legislature as a body were asking universities to tell us what they need. I don’t know how well that worked out. It’s very hard to go to Springfield and articulate why we need a 5% budget increase. If we have a plan the reasons are easier to articulate. Out of 179 members of General Assembly there are 12 of representing districts with public universities.

Rose said the state must reexamine two issues. MAP is a \$440 million program. First, the state is broke. Second, anyone can use MAP funds at any school, including private universities. Is the goal of the program to support quality 4-year education, so that every kid has a chance? If that’s the goal, MAP funds need to go back into public 4-years and community colleges. The way the program is structured, it’s based on need, and Community College students receive less money. I don’t think we can continue to have these disparities.

Rose stated that the “Truth in Tuition” bill has caused quite a bit of distortion in price of tuition, and argued that by freezing tuition upon entry it causes universities to hedge by raising tuition perhaps more than they need.

Rose said he is talking with other state legislators from districts with universities about how to improve funding. He said the reason we are so proud of EIU you do more with less, and that EIU delivers a quality education and marketable degree. He said the steam plant was an example of an ideal proposal to bring to the legislature. Rose stated he could not say enough about the approach, which suggested that EIU had the issue figured out, and only needed a change or a tweak in legislation. He praised President’ Perry’s leadership.

Perry stated that the support EIU recieves from Rose and Righter is awesome.

Perry said shared governance is critical to enhancment of university, and Faculty Senate is key in that process. When people look at EIU they see a university with stable enrollment with high standards. He noted the move-in days are very positive experience at EIU, and that they are important because they are

the first experiences at the university. Fall fundraising campaign will begin soon, and many faculty and staff are already contributing. Perry said he is hosting an event Sunday for annuitants who contribute. In Spring he will host a reception for current faculty and staff who have given at a certain level and above (lifetime), and when he asked Jill Nielson to prepare a list, it was very thick. The campaign's goal will be announced next fall.

Perry stated there are four pillars to a successful fundraising campaign: support from faculty, students, programs, and capital support. We have capital momentum: 9th street hall has opened up, TRS is going to be opening in mid-spring. Students stepped up, and paid the extra \$1 per credit hour fee to make the building possible. Perry noted the renewable energy center is underway, and many people have made that happen. All EIU needed was permission to do something different, and received great support from Chapin Rose, Dale Righter, and student Eric Wilber, who helped coordinate lobbying.

Perry states the next big project will be a new science building, and it is not going to be built by state giving us a lot of money. Funding may come from the federal government. EIU received federal grants in helping plan for the Renewable Energy Center.

When the REC is completed in a couple of years, EIU will have a nice building to repurpose. When TRS moves out of the old gym, the plan is to move honors programs to that site. The new science building will give opportunities for space, as will the REC.

The REC will open many opportunities in the region. Perry stated EIU would like to be able to burn regionally produced biomass. This would rely on interest and effort from local agricultural producers, and science professors at Lakeland and EIU. Other opportunities include eco-tourism, and test-planting alternate fuel sources for the center including switchgrass, acanthus, willow.

Perry stated that this year's promotion and tenure cases seem to be very strong, and recent hires have been strong. He noted that eleven EIU Students presented at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research. A recent NSF study shows that EIU is top 5% of its cohort in sending students on to Ph.D. programs. Perry mentioned a number of other recent awards for EIU graduate and undergraduate work, and stated that these things don't happen without the guidance and support of faculty and staff.

Perry stated that integrated learning is a key for our institutional progress. Faculty Senate has been very supportive, and that he has appreciated the thoughtful discussions we've had at the departments. Perry noted that incoming freshman will spend an average of \$20,044 (including room and board, transportation and incidentals) to attend EIU. He stated that anytime someone is thinking about spending that amount of money they've got to wonder what they will receive in return. EIU's competitive advantage compared to ISU and UIUC is its smaller classes. Admissions works intensively with students and families and has to be able to convince them that Eastern should be their choice. It's because we care about the whole student, integrative experience. Perry stated that when he speaks on the strengths of EIU, he emphasizes personal development and academics. He noted a father of a current student who, after comparing his own experience in large classes at UIUC, insisted his son attend EIU. Perry states that EIU accepts 70% of its applicants, a similar percentage as UIUC. EIU is in demand, we've just got to keep it that way. Perry stated that Eastern can't back off from the importance of a liberal arts education and can't back off from linking academic and personal development.

Senator Worthington noted Rose's statement that we do more with less. She stated that while she is really interested in integrative learning, but it seemed to expect more involvement from faculty with fewer resources. She asked if we going to be asking faculty to be doing even more with less, what kinds of support are going to be in place, and what are the expectations of this initiative.

Perry noted that because of the state budget situation, more with less is being asked of everyone. He suggested that if faculty are passionate about undergraduate research, they will do more without thinking of what other resources might be available. He said we are committed to enhancing faculty teaching and research, and integrative learning fits in with that.

Lord noted that two main initiatives have been made, one was to support faculty to attend a conference on integrative learning with funding from president, and second is to find ways to reward units who are doing things creatively for integrative learning. Lord stated that integrative learning is not different fundamentally from what we have been doing, but by talking about it he believes EIU might give it a sharper focus. He noted that at a previous institution, a president who made doing more with less an institutional philosophy was around for two years. He stated that Rose meant that EIU provides value to taxpayers.

Perry stated that since part of EIU's funding is from general funds, which are always based on a percentage of what you once received, institutions get into a position where the sins of the past, or largess

of the past constantly shape future budgets. Western Illinois University has a large state funding per student, in part because enrollment has decreased but their allocations remain high. He noted that the reputation that we will be good stewards with whatever resources we have helped get the REC.

Lord stated faculty salaries compared with other institutions have increased in recent years. Weber stated EIU faculty salaries are in the top third compared to similar institutions in the region. Compared nationwide, EIU is at 50-60% for unit A categories.

Senator Murray asked for clarification on the recent ITS job cuts. Weber stated that EIU is restructuring ITS area, because of changes in our IT environment. 10 years ago EIU had a mainframe and every program was written by people here. Today, we have one home-grown program, TRS inventory and everything else is a packaged software programs. Weber stated that computers these days are more plug and play commodities than they were 15 years ago. Hardware problems were common, they are less common now. EIU's IT has become much more decentralized. Weber said that these changes could not be dealt solely through attrition. VP for ITS Chat Chatterjee, Treasurer Paul McCann, and the ITS managers, conducted an analysis of the skills and positions we need for current and future environment, and made recommendations for job cuts. The recommendations were reviewed with President. EIU will be eliminating several vacant positions, and there are upcoming retirements that will not be filled, but it was not enough. New positions will need to be created, in database administration, and in web development. Perry stated that Weber met with the ITS group of first part of July, and employees knew that the analysis was going on. All those who lost their jobs received a 60-day notice, and will be able to apply for the new jobs.

Senator Padmaraju asked if Weber tracks for non-tenure track salaries. Weber stated that AAUP salary data lists four ranks: Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, and Instructor. Weber stated he compared EIU's unit B faculty with the fourth category, but that the Instructor category is much less consistent across institutions. EIU's unit B salaries are in the 30% percentile for the nation, and somewhere in the middle for our region. Weber stated that the market for a instructor faculty is a regional market, and is reflective of salaries and costs of living in the immediate region than professors salaries.

Senator Pommier presented outgoing VPER Jill Nielsen with a plaque bearing resolution from Senate honoring her years of service.

Senator Coit asked what EIU and the state can do to make college education affordable. Perry stated we have to approach it in multiple ways. One way is to raise funds for scholarship, internships, and paid internships. He stated that we're probably going to have more transfer students, and we need to make sure those students know there's a pathway to EIU. EIU has around 150 2+2 agreements with Community Colleges. EIU also must enable students to get more and more information about other scholarship opportunities and other financial aid opportunities. At the state level to EIU must continue to battle for funding for MAP. 600,000 students in the state qualify for MAP, and 50% of those students income is \$20,000 or less, while 75% of MAP recipients come from families earning \$40,000 or less. The state stops awarding MAP grants in early May. This results in students who are initially undecided being unable to attend college. Perry noted that we need to work on federal front, to support more funding for Pell grants and other federal grants. At EIU, we need to look at cost savings we can generate, and Perry noted we are generating cost savings with energy conservation measures currently underway. Reorganizations can save money when they make sense, and EIU can net some savings in the long run, but the real key is to tap into our faculty creativity to educate students. Perry stated he believes strongly in the liberal arts core. Perry referenced a piece which asked the question, "why do Broadway tickets cost so much?" Perry stated that the answer was, it's about the labor, it's a human endeavor, and we can't go to assembly line approach. Perry stated that we have to ask, are we achieving what we want to achieve, the academic and personal development of our students. He said the experience here is equal to that of a liberal arts college with 500 students, and that's because the faculty here figured it out.

Hyder noted most state legislators don't have a four year institution in their districts, and that most that do are represented by Republicans, while the legislature is controlled by the Democratic party. To the extent that higher education is important to the legislature, we've been told its because of the private universities, especially in the greater Chicago area. Hyder stated that a sizeable amount of the MAP funds go to private universities and out of state institutions. He asked if there are figures which show what percentage of MAP funds leave the state. Perry stated that one of the things we try to do, is say did you know half of EIU students are from Cook County, or that 30% of teachers in your local school districts are from Eastern. That brings home that if EIU gets hurt, you get hurt. Hyder noted that every legislator has at least one student attending EIU. Nielsen noted that the legislation for the REC was supported by Wilber's

effort, which got over 1000 letters from students asking their legislators to support, and the bill received a unanimous vote. Perry stated that all politics is local, and everybody's got a local.

VII. Adjournment at 3:57

Future Agenda items:

Integrative learning

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Coit
October 31, 2009